



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Primary election unofficial results

Unofficial results of Tuesday's primary election show Lisa Martin and Alexandria Taylor as the front-runners for 34th District Court Judge. They will face off for the six-year seat in the Nov. 3 election.

Martin received 4,213 votes; Taylor, 3,800 votes. Incumbent David Parrott earned 3,430; Robert Coutts, 2,150; and John Day, 1,767.

Sumpter Township

Sumpter Supervisor John Morgan, a Democrat, will compete against Republican candidate Tim Bowman in November. Morgan earned 676 votes in Tuesday's Democratic primary vote, followed by Nelson Po with 327, Denise Komora with 198, and Antoine Jordan with 178.

Clerk Esther Hurst retained her seat with 742 votes; challenger Sherry Olds earned 587 votes. James Clark got 695 votes to earn the treasurer's seat over Vincent Warren with 547 votes. Neither Hurst nor Clark have a Republican challenger, so their elections in November are likely.

Sheena Barnes was top vote-getter in the Democratic trustee vote, with 720; followed by Peggy Morgan, 692; Don LaPorte, 658; and Matt Oddy, 654. The four will face Republican incumbent Tim Rush in November.

Others running for trustee on the Democratic ticket were Don Swinson, 630; Ken Myers, 552; and Eric Partridge, 460. Sumpter voters approved the fire protection millage with 1,576 yes votes. There were 640 no votes.

Van Buren Township

In Van Buren Township, the only race was for the Democratic trustee positions. Incumbents earned three of the four top slots. Reggie Miller earned 3,657 votes; Kevin Martin, 3,074; and Sherry Frazier, 2,921. Newcomer Donald Boynton earned 2,189 to earn a place with them on the November ballot to face Republican Cameron Porzondek.

Incumbent Paul White, with 1,875 votes, and newcomer Walter Rochowiak, with 1,789, did not earn places on the November ballot.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

All day Saturday, masked election workers in the Van Buren Township Clerk's office were on hand to help voters by giving out absentee ballots and accepting completed absentee ballots for the Aug. 4 primary election. From left are Elections Clerk Brittany Beaudry, Donae Hubbard, and Deputy Clerk Joanne Montgomery. A worker at the front door of township hall also was on hand with hand sanitizer and COVID-19 screening. He also offered to carry ballots to the ballot slot across the lobby so voters did not have to walk all the way into the lobby and could quickly leave.

City Council puts pot shops question on Nov. 3 ballot

By Rosemary K. Oztzman

Independent Editor

The Belleville City Council voted unanimously at Monday's Zoom meeting

to ask the residents of the city to decide on whether they want a marijuana shop or two on Main Street by placing the question on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

Actually, there are two questions: One is to enact an ordinance to provide for the number of marijuana establishments within the city and provisions for their operation; the other is to amend the city charter to

(continued on page 3)

VBT to consider adding public safety millage to Nov. ballot

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6, via Zoom.

The only item on the agenda is:

"Discussion on and to consider approval of the placement of a public safety millage renewal proposal on the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election ballot."

According to state law 168.646a, ballot wording of county and local proposals to be presented at the November general election must be certified to county and local clerks by 4 p.m., Aug. 11. Local clerks receiving ballot wording must forward to the county clerk within two days.

On Nov. 8, 2016, VBT voters approved a seven-year tax of 6.5 mills to support public safety. That millage runs through December 2023.

Ypsilanti father drowns in Southport apartments retention pond in VBT

Drowning victim Cedric Collins, 30, a Ypsilanti father, was pulled out of a retention pond at Southport apartment complex by the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department's Dive Team at about 9:30 p.m., Thursday, July 30.

Police Chief Jason Wright said police were dispatched at about 8:42 p.m. to the retention pond at Southport, in the area of Building 14, on the report of a subject who was swimming in the pond and struggling, yelling for help.

Chief Wright said it was reported that the subject went under the water about halfway across the pond and did not come up. The dive team was summoned and upon searching the water, the victim was recovered.

The victim was conveyed to an area hospital by ambulance, but did not survive, he said.

Chief Wright told WDIV that several people at the pond reportedly pressured Collins into taking a bet of \$1,000 to swim across the pond. Collins was reluctant, but was goaded into it by peer pressure, Chief

(continued on page 8)

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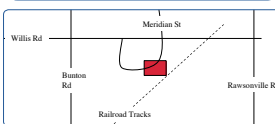
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Pot shops

(continued from page 1)

allow this.

Questions for the Nov. 3 ballot have to be in the Wayne County Clerk's hands by Aug. 11.

Interim city manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz explained the situation.

She said about two weeks ago, the city was presented with stacks of petitions asking the city to legalize marijuana shops in the city and one to change the charter to allow this.

Kobylarz said, in June, Clerk Sherri Scharf got a call from someone on how to present a petition. She presented it to the attorney, who was Steve Hitchcock at the time, and he explained that it was a simple process and the city had to sit tight and there was nothing they could do to prevent the petition.

The petitions were submitted to the clerk and she submitted them to the city attorney (now Jeff Clark) because that was the procedure in the city charter. Kobylarz described the way the petitions were 18" wide sheets all put together and it appeared so many people had signed without reading it.

She said on a Tuesday night, at 10 minutes to 5 p.m. closing, they crowded into city hall. Submitting the forms were professional signature collectors from Arizona, Florida, and Texas, coronavirus hot sports, which "put the staff on edge," Kobylarz said.

"There were 75 pages of these things," Kobylarz said, adding Clerk Scharf swore her in as an assistant and they got to work on validating the signatures.

"Most who signed were not from Belleville," Kobylarz said, explaining most were from Van Buren Township and some from Sumpter Township.

"Once we determined the valid voters in Belleville on Friday, we contacted the new attorney," Kobylarz said, adding they have done everything by the book.

Attorney Clark said the council's options are limited. He said the clerk certified enough Belleville signatures. He said the council could adopt both measures or simply send language to the county clerk to be put on the next ballot.

Councilmembers Kelly Bates and Ken Voigt said they could let the voters decide.

Councilman Voigt said they needed 25% of voters in the last presidential election and Kobylarz said they had that, with 88 valid signatures.

Planning Commissioner Mike Renaud asked why would Belleville be bothered with this and why didn't the out-of-towners choose Van Buren Township or Sumpter Township? He said there is just a handful of people in the city who would use the shops and Belleville has a small police

department.

Councilman Tom Fielder said they are probably doing petitions in any city in Michigan who hasn't approved marijuana dispensaries.

"They don't have a very good handle on our community," Voigt said.

"People not in our community can do this," said Mayor Conley. "I was shocked to know anyone could even do that to change our charter."

"No one came knocking on my door," said Renaud, noting he is home all day.

"They had an army," Mayor Conley said. "They came from the outside."

"We should not be held hostage," Renaud said. "It doesn't seem right."

"I believe with Ken Voigt that it should be decided by the voters," said Planning Commissioner John Juriga. "I signed the petition, and my wife signed. A hired high school kid came to our door without a mask."

"I have the same angst that others are expressing," Voigt said. "We have no choice but to put it on the ballot."

Juriga said council passed an ordinance and it was posted in the local newspaper against having marijuana shops in the city.

"We don't know how the voters will vote," Voigt said.

"We have no choice," Marcotte said. "Either pass it or put it on the ballot."

"If the majority of voters say they want a marijuana dispensary on Main Street, so be it," Fielder said.

Voigt said the city attorney said they have no choice. He said he has been in the city for 40 years and, "... almost always the voters get it right."

"Our city attorney wrote up an ordinance to keep it out of the city, now we have to change the ordinance," Renaud said.

"We could pass any ordinance and a group could petition," Voigt said.

Juriga reminded them that at one point the city approved zoning for a marijuana facility in a lot behind Davenport Plaza because it had to, but that location never was used and the zoning was later repealed.

Mayor Conley said if the voters say yes, the city has the responsibility to say where they could be.

Attorney Clark said the council has the responsibility to reasonably calculate where they could go. And, this would all be under state regulations.

"You can't not zone things because you don't like it," Clark said. "You have some responsibility."

Police Chief Dave Robinson said you can vet out people who will run it.

Clark said like a liquor license, you can do background checks. "You still have control on where it should be," Clark said.

"We have a responsibility to educate voters," said Mayor Conley. "We presently did what was required of us."

In other business at Monday's meeting,



Photo courtesy of Richard Smith

City of Belleville residents were alerted to a water main break by the community's new Nixel alert system early Sunday morning. City Department of Public Works employees and others worked on the break which caused a lake on E. Huron River Drive between Bedell Street and Madelon Avenue, closing the street to traffic. Water service was temporarily stopped to make repairs and some experienced low to no water pressure. At Monday's regular city council meeting, it was reported there were three gigantic holes on E. Huron River Drive, with three companies and eight people working on it. A week earlier a water main break on E. Huron River Drive closed down traffic in front of the police department for two days while repairs were completed.

the council:

- Unanimously approved the extension of the six-month contract of interim city manager Kobylarz for another six months, mirroring the present contract. She has an annual salary of \$80,000. Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte said this would allow things to become "normalized" before a final decision is made. Mayor Conley said Kobylarz has done a lot of things that hadn't been done in the past and she was getting their house in order. All council members expressed their support of her

work;

- Turned down a motion by Councilman Voigt, on a 3-2 vote, to put on the Nov. 3 ballot a question to change the city charter to reduce to zero compensation for the city council. Since 1982, when the charter was adopted, the council members have received \$1,000 a year each and the mayor \$1,500. Voigt said that \$5,500 saved could be put to good use elsewhere. Mayor Pro Tem Marcotte also voted in favor of the move. Voting no were Bates, Fielder,

(continued on page 17)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Belleville gets targeted by outside pot supporters

What was described as an "army" of out-of-state, professional, signature collectors targeted the City of Belleville for a petition drive that has resulted in the city deciding to put two proposals on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

The petition asked for marijuana dispensaries in the city and a change in the city charter to allow this.

At Monday's regular council meeting, held virtually by Zoom, Councilman Ken Voigt said the signature collectors had no understanding of this area. People from Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township signed the petition and presumably told signature collectors that they lived in "Belleville."

But, out of the 75 pages of petitions there were enough valid signatures of Belleville residents to push the petition forward and force the council to either approve what they asked for or put it on the ballot.

Council members agreed to let the citizens decide if they wanted pot shops in town and to live with the decision.

We covered the council's extensive discussion so residents would know just how these questions happened to be placed on the Nov. 3 ballot.

When the petitions were presented, people who had come from Arizona, Texas, and Florida – COVID-19 hot spots – came into city hall with their own notary. It scared city employees – in more ways than one.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

We received a call from a man who wanted to alert our readers about people who are coming door to door and offering to asphalt driveways for a cheap price.

"I hate to see people get ripped off," he said. He noted that two of his neighbors in Sumpter Township had their driveways done.

On one, after it was done, that evening it rained. It was brand new and there were eight to ten puddles of water in the driveways. You could see the low spots and that means it wasn't done properly, he said. When it's done correctly, the center of the driveway is slightly higher than the rest so the water can drain off and not stand in puddles.

Also, the people apparently were told not to park on their driveways for two or three days, so they parked in their yards. He said he is experienced with working with asphalt and one day is enough. Longer means it wasn't done properly.

All this is to say, think twice before you let a stranger who knocks on your door do your driveway and, "Price isn't everything."

I remember former Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman told me when he was on the Detroit Police Department he worked on what was called "The Gypsy Unit." He said every year they had people from out of the area coming into town with cheap prices on asphalt paving that wasn't done right. He said at the end of the season, they were gone.

This kind of work was discussed in 2015 when Van Buren Township enacted its ordinance against using coal tar sealants in the township. The late Dr. David Wilson was on the Environmental Commission

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



at the time and he convinced them of the health and environmental dangers posed by coal tar products.

In 2017 VBT put some teeth into its ordinance. VBT was the first community in the state to ban coal tar and since then more have done so.

Those doing asphalt work can use asphalt that isn't dangerous, but the cheap stuff used by fly-by-night pavers is the dangerous coal tar, we were told.

We have noticed milk weed plants growing in flower gardens along our newspaper delivery route this summer, especially at the Belleville First United Methodist Church and the American Presidential Estates office building. The pods have formed and are getting bigger and soon they will burst and float around in airy parachutes.

Many have nurtured milkweed plants to attract the Monarch butterflies, who feed on the flowers and lay eggs that turn into caterpillars and then butterflies.

When I was a child on a farm on Haggerty Road during World War II, at school we were asked to collect the ripe milkweed pods and bring them to school. They were sent to the war effort, for life rafts, I think. We also were asked to collect the foil we peeled from our chewing gum wrappers – also for the war effort. In those days we did everything we could to help our country survive.

WXYZ reported that at 5:15 p.m. Monday a live grenade was reported in the 50000 block of W. Huron River Dr. in Van Buren Township. The Michigan State Police Bomb Squad responded and recovered the grenade and the area was cleared by 6:50 p.m. WXYZ reported one live hand grenade was recovered and will be destroyed.

At Monday's Belleville City Council meeting via Zoom, John Juriga said his basement was flooded due to the water main break and surrounding issues in front of his house on E. Huron River Drive. He said this is going to cost a lot of money for the city, since he sees three different companies out there, plus eight workers. He said, out his window, he could see DPW Director Rick Rutherford just then getting into his truck.

City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz said Rick has been out there working since the water main break early Sunday morning and he's very tired.

Juriga was grumpy because he had to call Councilman Ken Voigt to find out about the meeting and how to get on it by Zoom. He said he looked on the city website and it didn't even say they were having a meeting, let alone how to join it by Zoom. Kobylarz said she doesn't know why it wasn't posted.



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Letters

No coincidences when it comes to land, money

To the readers and the editor:

A frustrated retired fireman exclaimed in a crowded room that ambulance sirens will be on, it's a requirement! The businessman had just claimed that when ambulances come and go from a planned 83-unit senior care center, that sirens would not be wailing down the rural residential streets.

It was a winter night in January of this year, and residents had come to the Van Buren Township Hall in numbers rarely seen at a planning commission meeting. More than 60 people sat in folding chairs, and at times had to lean forward or move closer, straining to hear from the businessmen and developers as they described the 63,000-square-foot building they were asking special permission to locate at the corner of Morton Taylor and Tyler roads.

If you think of that corner, you might be surprised. It is currently surrounded by farmland and residential homes in a quiet area of the township, just down the road from an elementary school. There are no stop lights for three miles and very few sidewalks.

During the process, myself and a couple of other residents pointed out that even with special permission for that land use, the zoning ordinance had a 10,000-square-foot limit on building size. The developers' plans did not meet zoning ordinance requirements, giving the planning commission the right to vote no. The developers and consultants had made an expensive mistake.

Since then, the planning commission voted to change the zoning ordinance, allowing a 63,000-square-foot building to be built on that corner, and the Van Buren Board of Trustees voted to approve this change. This decision favours two entities: the sellers of that land, Walter and Evelyn Joyce Rochowiak, and the company that will build and own the senior care center. It did not favour the greater community that lives there.

The township currently has a draft of a 2020 Master Plan for the township. This document refers to land zoned like the corner of Morton Taylor and Tyler as a space for "small commercial nodes, with low impacts, serving residents immediately adjacent." If these senior care units are priced similar to their other properties in Michigan, I could not afford to retire there and I doubt the surrounding residents could either. A claim of low impact is laughable.

We sold our home and moved. We had been planning to stay in this area for a long time. We created the flyer that brought residents out in droves that January night. The planning commission made decisions incongruous to the zoning ordinance and documented intentions for the land. Frustrated and feeling railroaded, we moved to a township with a clear master

plan that states what will and will not be allowed long term for different areas. When you buy land and put down roots, you want to know what you are getting into. With the current leadership at Van Buren Township, that is not possible.

Demand more of your planning commission. Elect leaders to the Board of Trustees that listen to the community. Mr. Rochowiak, the seller of that land, is currently running for a seat on the Board of Trustees. The final plans for development of that senior care center have not been approved yet. Is it a coincidence that he is running? There are no coincidences when it comes to land and money.

Sincerely,
Karianne Butler and Jason Lommerse
Formerly of Van Buren Township

Ditches got cleaned, let's keep them cleaned

To the editor:

After what is likely 10 to 20 years of neglect, and two years of phone calls, letters, emails, and personal visits to the county, something good happened.

Oakville Waltz Road from Clark Road to the western edge of Sumpter Township is maintained by Monroe County. Even the roadside ditches are their responsibility. Monroe County Road Commission finally cleaned out the ditches! They appear to be jetting the culverts, as well.

I am very happy to see this. I have thanked Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous for his involvement, as well as Randy from the Monroe County Road Commission.

I would like to encourage those that own property on Oakville Waltz (as well as elsewhere in the township) to maintain their ditches. Spray weeds, mow, pick up trash. It is for our own benefit.

I look forward to less flooding, less mosquitoes, and less mess this upcoming spring. I did not expect this to happen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,
Bob Bucala

I followed Mike Sturtz to Crest Ford, Flat Rock

To the editor:

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Obituaries



Dorothy Marie Townsend

DOROTHY MARIE TOWNSEND

(February 24, 1938 - July 28, 2020)

Dorothy Marie Townsend, age 82, long-time Belleville resident, passed away Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at her home.

She was born on February 24, 1938, in Clare County, MI, daughter of Percey Adolph & Alma Eva (Pero) Hall. Dorothy married Edward Townsend when she was a senior in high school in 1956 and lived on the family farm in Gladwin, MI. Ed was in the military when they got married, so as soon as she graduated, Dorothy flew to Alaska to be with him. Dorothy loved to bake and was always baking and sharing recipes with family and friends. She was also a cake decorator and did many wedding cakes and birthday cakes for everyone. She loved gardening and planting flowers and was a collector of cookbooks and angels. She worked at Edgemont Elementary School for over 30 years as a lunchroom supervisor. She loved the kids and still had communication with some of them after she retired. She loved seeing her grandkids and great-grandkids. She was loved very much by her family and friends. She spent the last five years of her life-fighting cancer and arthritis and was a very strong-willed lady right up until the end.

Mrs. Townsend is survived by her loving husband of nearly 64 years, Edward Samuel Townsend; three children: Jerry (Cynthia) Townsend of Romulus, MI, Cindy (Terry) Edwards of Belleville, MI and Michelle (David) Traskos of Belleville, MI; four grandchildren: Jeremy (Moriah) Townsend, Steven (Megan) Edwards, Kristen (Christopher) Lutsic and Kristofer (Shelbe) Edwards; five great-grandchildren: Samuel and Johnny Townsend, Evelyn Edwards, Fiona Lutsic and Mila Edwards; a sister Darlene Hull of Sterling, MI, also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters Doris Hall and Arlene Wilson, also three brothers: Ronald, William, and Donald Hall.

According to her wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Dorothy's family would like to thank Angela Hospice for all their help, and a special thank you to her nurse, Jane. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice and would be greatly appreciated.

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Service Charge	\$4,890.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
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Obituaries



Dennis White, Jr.

DENNIS WHITE, JR.

(April 11, 1938 – July 28, 2020)

Dennis White, Jr., age 82, long-time Belleville area resident, passed away Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at his home. He was born April 11, 1938 in Camden, South Carolina, son of Dennis and Louise (Lewis) White, Sr.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam conflict where he was a green beret and worked in the Criminal Investigation Division. He enjoyed classic cars and trucks, fishing, going to flea markets and collecting. He had a wonderful sense of humor. Everyone who knew him loved him.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 25 years Anh "Dee" Huynh; children: Stanley (Minnie) White of Augusta, Georgia, LaVera White of Atlanta, Georgia, Christopher D. White & Timothy White of Columbus, Georgia, Hason White, and Price & Michael White, both of Belleville, MI; 10 grandkids and 13 great-grandkids; sisters Marian (Lonnie) Stephenson and Jacqueline Carter, Patterson, NJ; a brother David Wayne White of Camden, South Carolina; and a host of extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI (734) 697-4500.
www.davidcbrownfh.com



Donald F. Ward

DONALD F. WARD

(July 17, 1935 – July 2, 2020)

Donald F. Ward born July 17, 1935 in Plymouth MI. Passed away peacefully next to his wife Ann Higgins-Ward on July 2, 2020 at Divine Nest. Don retired as a supervisor of 30 years with Kelsey Hayes in Romulus. He also served in the 11th Airborne and was a life member at Romulus VFW, American Legion and the Moose. Don married his wife Ann in 1995 after dating for 14 years. His parents are Lavene and Nora Ward. Siblings are Vivian, Jerry, Robert, Janette, Edward, Kathy and Lavene. His children are Terry Elizabeth, Brian and Dawn. He was loved by his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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Charles Eugene Minthorn

CHARLES EUGENE MINTHORN

(July 20, 1925 - July 28, 2020)

Charles Eugene Minthorn, age 95, long-time Belleville area resident, passed away Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at his home. He was born July 20, 1925 in Plymouth, MI, son of Arthur and Esther (Estep) Minthorn. He graduated from Plymouth High School, class of 1943 and then proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. He returned home and enjoyed delivering mail for the United States Postal Service in the neighborhood he grew up in. He retired in the mid-1980s after more than 30 years of loyal service. He was a member of the Plymouth VFW Post #6695 and the Plymouth Rock Masonic Lodge #47 F.A.&M. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and various trips to Alaska and Colorado. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed skiing and hockey. He was a Penalty Box Attendant for over 25 years for the University of Michigan Hockey team and loved all U of M sports.

Charlie is survived by his daughter Lori Minthorn of Belleville, MI; grandson Mark D. (Kelly) Minthorn, Jr.; granddaughter Megan Minthorn; great-granddaughter Macie Minthorn; two sisters H. Maxine Nicks of Ellenton, Florida and Marilyn Meus of Charlotte, North Carolina; also numerous extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Gertrude (Mitton) Minthorn, son Mark D. Minthorn, Sr., also a grandson Michael Minthorn.

Visitation was 3-8 p.m. Sunday and 10-11 a.m. Monday, August 3, 2020 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Funeral Service was Monday at 11 a.m. Pastor Robert J. White officiated. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was a limit of ten (10) people in the building at one time. Masks, scarves or bandannas were required inside the building. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, with full military honors. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family.

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DAVID PAUL KURDUNOWICZ

(September 8, 1954 - July 24, 2020)

Age 65, of Belleville. Survived by sister Mary Jo Cubr of Brighton; 5 nephews; 1 niece, and many more family and friends. Cremations rites have been accorded. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

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Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Aug. 10 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 11 –Sumpter Township board meeting at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Obituaries



Janet Anne McArthur

JANET ANNE McARTHUR

(August 7, 1962 – July 28, 2020)

Janet Anne McArthur, age 57, long-time Belleville resident, formerly of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at her home. She was born August 7, 1962 in Casablanca, Morocco.

Janet had a life-long love for animals. She was a member of the ASPCA, Michigan Humane Society, Humane Society of the United States and North Shore Animal League. She leaves Tabby and Charley, two cats she loved when she resided in Sumpter Township, MI. In Belleville, she had her beloved cat Dott.

Janet supported the American Lung Association, American Cancer Society and Covenant House. She loved the Detroit Red Wings and the 1984 Detroit Tigers. She met Sparky Anderson, Lance Parrish, Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker. She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI, since the second grade. In her twenties, she went to St. John the Baptist in Ypsilanti, when she lived in Ann Arbor and worked at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for ten years. She specialized, going back to school at Washtenaw Community College and Schoolcraft College, in working with closed-head-injury and spinal-cord-injury patients. She loved what she did. She did that for 23 years of her life.

Janet returned to Belleville, helping her parents, and returned back to St. Anthony Parish. Preceding her in death was her mom Marjorie (Simpson) McArthur and dad Joseph McArthur, Sr., both career U.S. Military officers. She is survived by brother Joseph (April) McArthur, Jr. of Philadelphia, PA. She adopted a big brother, Father Paul, from Flushing, MI, which she knew when she went to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ypsilanti, MI. She kept in touch with Father Paul in Flushing, MI for over 30 years. Father Tom Cusick was her priest in Belleville, MI. He always said, "Keep your sense of humor."

She was an active supporter of First Responders, Police and Fire, and U.S. Military. Janet respected the Belleville Police Department and had a good friend in Corporal Todd Schrecengost.

A Funeral Mass was held at 12 Noon Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI with Father John Kiselica as Celebrant. Entombment will be with her parents in Washtenaw Memorial Park, Ann Arbor, MI.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Anthony Catholic Church, St. Vincent DePaul, Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue, or American Lung Association.

www.davidcbrownfh.com



James (Jim) Pieczkiewicz

JAMES PIECZKIEWICZ

(August 15, 1942 – July 20, 2020)

Mr. James (Jim) Pieczkiewicz passed away Monday, July 20, 2020 at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills, Michigan. He was born on August 15, 1942 in Detroit, Michigan, a son of Ted and Bernice (Zawacki) Pieczkiewicz. On August 13, 1963 he was married to Emma Mae Lewis in Detroit, Michigan. They resided in Belleville since 1992. Prior to that they lived in Canton and Inkster. They enjoyed 50 wonderful years of marriage. Sadly, Emma passed away on January 30, 2014.

Jim led an uncomplicated life. His biggest hobby was cooking. He met his future spouse Emma when they both worked at a Big Boy in Detroit. She was a waitress, and he was a line cook. He loved food and cooking, his specialty being breakfasts. After they worked at Big Boy, around the time their son David was born, Jim began working with a produce auction and shipper downtown and worked there until retirement. He did a lot of physical labor for his job, and that carried over to home, where he did hands-on yard work and gardening. When they were younger and more able, Jim and Emma liked to fish. Around the time their son David went to college in 1989, they enjoyed going to Gallup Park in Ann Arbor to fish. Jim loved watching sports, especially football, baseball, hockey, and later golf. Back in the '70s and '80s, he and Emma were avid bowlers as well. Due to declining health, Jim moved to an assisted living facility in 2015, and later resided at Beaumont Commons from late 2016 until the time of his passing.

James is survived by his loving son David Pieczkiewicz, PhD; two beloved sisters Linda (Richard) Johnson and Loraine (Mark) Montagano; and four nieces and two nephews. A graveside service for James was held on Thursday, July 23 at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville, MI. Deacon Peter Cornell officiated the service.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734) 697-9400.

VBT drowning

(continued from page 1)

Wright said.

Reportedly, initial rescue attempts were aborted as darkness fell.

Chief Wright said the body was found 163 feet off shore in seven feet of water. The investigation into the drowning continues and Chief Wright said he is not sure if alcohol was involved.

Letters

Where are Belleville's, VBT's First Peoples?

To the editor:

As the country takes down statues related to the Confederacy, so should Belleville with LaSalle's, which is a slap in the face to all victims of European colonialism, especially blacks and indigenous people.

Just as Columbus couldn't discover America since indigenous people were already here, LaSalle didn't discover the Mississippi River basin and going pass on the Huron River shouldn't warrant celebration with a statue.

Colonialism, that the LaSalle statue embodies, is the source of many of the problems we have today and its tenets should be rejected if we're to move forward as a society. Native people had advanced forms of diplomacy, including treaties, among diverse tribes, that encouraged peace. Saying they "were constantly warring" is a stereotype that is untrue and demeaning.

I heard the author of Riverwalks Ann Arbor say on a radio show that the entire length of the Huron River (or Nottawaseppi) was occupied by indigenous people, both sides. So who are Belleville's or Van Buren Township's First Nations' people and where are they now?

Are they teaching that in the schools?

Jeffrey Taite

Ypsilanti Township resident

I'm being held hostage in my own town

To the editor:

My name is Roland. I work at Marriott in town and live in Southport apartments. I'm contacting you because I want to share a story with the community, with your help, of course.

The gist of it is this: I cannot get a title for my own car online because it has been reported stolen. I cannot get a title for my own car at secretary of state. Even at an appointment which is three months from now.

And my insurance company is loving this because without the title, they don't have to pay. Every night I walk 1.5 miles on the Service Drive in the dark to get to work and the same on the way back.

The bottom line is between my policy's policies and executive orders I'm being humiliated and held hostage in my own town. I don't know what to do about it and I need help.

Roland Smith

Van Buren Township

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Letters

Not too late to take part in FMAR fund raiser

To the editor:

If you missed FMAR's Christmas in July fundraiser, you can still participate. Go to Friends of Michigan Animals Facebook page or, if you are not on Facebook, use the YouTube link <https://youtube.com/QWL6svWYRA>.

You will be looking for our Christmas in July event. Watch a recording of professional storyteller Linda Luke tell the Christmas Story. Interspersed between sections of the story are soloists singing Christmas songs. If you choose, you can donate there.

It is challenging not to be able to hold our usual public fundraisers. This is a chance for you to help the shelter and experience some Christmas cheer. We can all use a dose of that right now.

Thank you.
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Government overreach and lies – we will appeal

To the editor:

This is concerning an article in the *Belleville-Area Independent* newspaper on July 30, 2020, page 16.

This whole process was a political pay back by Sumpter Township officials. No one ever told me that I could appeal or that I had other avenues to pursue concerning this trumped-up simple misdemeanor ordinance violation 10.8.

We asked, but still have not seen that official ghost complaint document claiming to be from former Sumpter Township Clerk Clarence Hoffman. When the ordinance violation was served, Mr. Hoffman had been deceased for several months. Sumpter Township officials blamed a deceased man to justify their lies. Where is their decency? Mr. Hoffman was an honorable civil servant. In fact, I considered Mr. Hoffman a friend. He had been on my trailer on two different occasions. My only wish is that he was still alive.

All Chris Atkins, the planning administrator for Sumpter Township, told me was to get my new RV off of the property that I own at 27325 Martinsville Road in a rude, unprofessional, and nasty manner. He had heard that my RV was rusted-out and that me and my family were living on it with no running water or electric, and that we dumped human waste on the ground -- more lies made up by Sumpter Township officials. I offered to take Atkins out to the

property so that he could see for himself. Atkins refused.

To make matters worse, my attorney was not permitted to introduce this information in Judge Parrott's court. Parrott stated in open court that "he was not going to have a circus in his court room," effectively removing another one of our arguments. Judge Parrott also refused to let us introduce pictures of other trailers on private property with no house, or to present witnesses on my behalf. He effectively denied me due process, again. Judge Parrott himself has now been arrested and is facing an array of criminal charges. Further, I had no opportunity to participate in a jury selection of which was all white. This writer is an American of African descent. Black Lives Matter.

There are at least a dozen trailers in our township that have not been violated. Why? Some even with trees and vines growing on top and around them. Since we couldn't introduce all of our evidence in 34th District Court, we could not introduce it in Judge Noah Hood's Circuit Court, effectively nullifying the challenge on our appeal.

We will be appealing Judge Hood's and Judge Parrott's opinions in Federal District court. Perhaps they will look at this whole situation differently and hold those accountable in Sumpter Township for this miscarriage of justice and lies. I take responsibility for my challenge to prosecutorial misconduct, lies, and judicial preferential treatment for the prosecutor and bias against the defendant. My First Amendment rights, I feel, were violated.

I'm a law-abiding tax payer and citizen. No justice has been served yet in this case. I have 23 years seniority in law enforcement as a lieutenant commander with the Michigan Department of Corrections, I am a past vice president of the Flint, Michigan, Branch of the NAACP, graduate of the Flint Police Citizens Academy, trustee with the South Western Wayne County Democratic Club, a member of the Belleville Area Lions Club disaster relief, a college graduate, and I own my own business that provides programming for a national media outlet.

We have a moral obligation to speak up if we experience injustice. In Sumpter, Township, allegedly hundreds of thousands of dollars are missing and can't be accounted for. Also, allegedly hundreds

of absentee ballots have been destroyed or compromised. We must immediately have the state and federal governments come and investigate missing tax payer dollars and absentee ballots to see if there is, or has been misconduct. If so, let's send the guilty parties to prison immediately. That goes for the young, old, and officials.

Factually, I've lived in a \$100,000-plus home on Willis Rd for the last 21 years with my family. We have never lived in a trailer or at the Martinsville address. We would be there on weekends or take our RV on vacations. We have always enjoyed the rural life. Watching the animals and breathing the fresh air.

There was NEVER any blight or trash on our properties, then or now. No complaints ever from our neighbors. We believe that Sumpter Township and this harassment was government overreach under the guise of a simple ordinance violation and "political assault" on me. Sumpter Township is known for its assault on tax payers, elderly, and employees if they speak up to protect themselves and tell the truth. This writer was raised to be honest and tell the truth. To have integrity. I am an elected Sumpter Township precinct delegate and I will not be intimidated by anyone. I work for the people and will continue to do so.

I have addressed some of the causes of this harassment one-by-one since it started in 2016 when I ran for trustee. At a board meeting Sumpter Township Supervisor John Morgan stated "people needed to clean up the blight on their property in the township." When I got up to speak, I asked him "why doesn't he be an example and clean up all the blight, piles of trash, rotting and falling-down wooden buildings, an old, rusted-out boat, and trailer with flat tires in his back yard?" In fact, my attorney Ronald Ruark of Canton and I wrote a letter to Morgan to clean up all his blight. That's when the harassment and lies started to surface.

Further, my court cost assessed by Judge Parrott consisted of a \$2,145 fine, 48 hours of community service, two years probation, "no alcohol or drugs." Does anyone see the irony?

Ronald Barrington Robinson
Sumpter Township Precinct Delegate

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Marina Gerick earns award for Benches for Belleville project

On July 18, Girl Scouts of South Eastern Michigan held the 2020 Honor Reception at the Canterbury Village Drive-In.

This unprecedented event honored the Gold Award Girl Scouts, Silver Award Girl Scouts, Bronze Award Girl Scouts, special award recipients, and graduating seniors.

All attendees were required to wear masks, and social distance. Each girl was allowed one vehicle of guests, and the guests viewed from their vehicle or from the 14' x 20' designated parking space. Awards were presented by GSSEM's new CEO Monica Woodson and board chairperson Telva McGruder. Honorees were viewed on the big screen as they crossed the stage.

Marina Gerick was presented with her Silver Award for her Benches for Belleville Project. The first trip to Indiana with 1,300 pounds of caps and lids yielded seven

benches in May of 2019. Caps and lids are still being collected with hopes of going to Indiana again in October to bring back more benches.

Currently, the active drop off locations are:

- Van Buren Township Hall, outside the main township entrance;
- Sumpter Township Hall, by the back entrance;
- Gardner's Choice on Belleville Road;
- Garden Fantasy on Main Street;
- Atchinson Ford on Belleville Road; and
- Belleville-Area Independent on Main Street.

For large drop-offs contact benchesforbelleville@gmail.com.

Drop-offs to restaurants have been suspended during this time due to Covid.

Marina said she appreciates Hidalgo's,

Egan's and The Lunch Box for supporting the project since the beginning. Guidelines for restaurants during Covid do not make them a practical drop-off location, Marina said.

The Belleville Area District Library has also been a great supporter of the project, but cannot accept caps during this time, she said.

Marina said she truly appreciates the support and love given to this project from this community.

For the award ceremony, Marina wore a special mask that said "2 down, 1 to go!" with a GS Bronze Trefoil with a check mark, a GS Silver Trefoil with a check mark and GS Gold Trefoil.

Marina earned her Bronze with her troop in June of 2016. Their project was comfort bags for homeless children.

Marina has yet to announce what her Gold Award Project will be.



Marina Gerick



For the award ceremony, Marina Gerick wore a special mask that said, "2 down, 1 to go!" She has earned bronze and silver awards and will do another project for her gold award.

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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK TOGO



Meet **Togo**! He is a 2 1/2 year old Pitbull mix with an affectionate, playful personality. He also absolutely LOVES his toys. Whether it's a bone, ball or toy this goofy boy always has one in his mouth ready to take on the world! **Togo** would prefer to be in an only pet home. He did come in heartworm positive but has been treated and is on the road to recovery. **Togo** will need a family that is able to keep him calmer since he does still have some activity restrictions until fully recovered. **Togo** will need to be re-tested in Nov. or Dec. 2020 to be sure the treatment was fully successful. It is also crucial that **Togo** receives monthly heartworm preventative for the rest of his life. This heart-warming, lovable and goofy boy is ready to find his fur-ever family so call **734-461-9458** to make an appointment today. He is up to date on vaccines, micro-chipped and neutered. You can visit our website friendsofmichigan.org to find out more information.

VBT DDA OKs sidewalk repairs for next construction season

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Because of the upcoming reconstruction of the East Huron River Drive bridge over the Huron River, and the resulting detour of traffic to Belleville Road, the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority decided to wait until 2021 to repair the sidewalks in its district.

At its regular meeting on July 28, via Zoom, the DDA voted unanimously to spend an estimated \$180,000 for costs associated with sidewalk repair and ADA accessibility. This includes a contingency, construction engineering, and administrative/legal costs.

At its June 20 DDA meeting, Wade Trim engineers provided an update on the drone flight to evaluate existing sidewalks along Belleville Road. There was not a large area where repairs were needed, and there was \$200,000 set aside in the budget for sidewalk repair, so they went back to evaluate all of the existing sidewalks within the DDA boundaries.

The following projects were approved:

- Belleville Road south of I-94, \$45,000
- Belleville Road north of I-94, \$70,000

- Tyler Road west of Belleville, \$10,000
- Van Born Road east of Belleville, \$13,000
- South Service Road west of Belleville, \$15,000
- North Service Road east of Belleville, \$4,500
- North Service Road west of Belleville, \$9,500

• Tyler Road east of Belleville, \$9,000
• Ecorse Road west of Belleville, \$4,000
Carmelle Tremblay of Wade Trim told the DDA that some are trip hazards, some are just cracks, and some present more of a danger than others.

DDA member Mark Laginess asked if it would be better to repair the sidewalks in 2021 when the detour is not in place.

Tremblay said the amount they contracted with Wade Trim is for one year and they would need another contract.

Tremblay presented a map, showing ADA ramp standards that were out of compliance, other problems, and branches over the sidewalk that is impeding walking and just needs trimming.

"I think this is an important project," Laginess said. "We've been working to make our downtown district walkable."

The DDA voted to authorize Wade Trim to do the project and to put it in the 2021 budget.

In other business at the July 28 meeting, the DDA:

- Approved the 2020 DDA Amended Budget and the 2021 Proposed Budget. DDA executive director Susan Ireland said next year's revenue is kind of neutral and it is estimated at less than the 2020 amended because they don't know if people will be going to the tax tribunal. She said there is not a whole lot of difference in the two budgets, with \$1.96 million tax capture in the 2020 amended budget and \$1.9 anticipated in 2021. The anticipated ending fund balance in 2021 is \$4,565,568. VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara said Ireland

and assistant executive director Lisa Lothringer did a lot of work on the budget and he worked with them three times. Supervisor McNamara praised all the detailed comments that made the numbers understandable. "They did a great job on that budget," he said;

• Approved Supervisor McNamara's request to advertise in an "elite trade journal in government and the development world." He said Business View Magazine (a digital publication) wants to do a story on Van Buren Township and how it jumped into land development with the Ford Motor Co. and DNR sites. He said Romulus, VBT and Huron Township are some of the key municipalities around and the magazine wants to talk about all the wonderful things we do. "I want to make sure we get noticed for developmental purposes," McNamara said, and that is why he asked the DDA to put an ad in the View. Lothringer, who recommends promotional pieces for the DDA, said she was not familiar with the magazine and didn't get good answers when she asked them questions. "They said, 'I'm looking into it,'" she said. She said they had a base of 845,000 and McNamara said, "With 845,000 alone, it would be more than enough people to be worth it." Ireland said since they are not doing public safety day this year they have enough money in the budget for an ad. "Allow us to tell our story," McNamara urged. Laginess made the motion to approve a \$4,800 full-page, full-color ad and a 200-word editorial, with approval of editorial content. That was seconded by Helen Foster and approved by the DDA; and

• Heard Carol Bird say she had a Corvette group use Harris Park behind her business and they will be back again. Lothringer said at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, a brass band will do a concert there. Ireland said she has had an inquiry about a drive-by baby shower at Harris Park.

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Belleville's Hermosillo-DeBoer graduates as U.S. Merchant Marine

Zachary Hermosillo-DeBoer of Belleville recently graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point, NY.

Hermosillo-DeBoer earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the U.S. armed forces. He also earned a Merchant Marine officer license, qualifying him to serve as an officer on any ship in the U.S. flag merchant marine.

He is the son of Alesia Hermosillo and Michael DeBoer of Belleville. Hermosillo-DeBoer was nominated by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell of Michigan's 12th congressional district and is a graduate of Belleville High School.

His brother Michael Hermosillo-DeBoer graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 2017.

The United States Merchant Marine Academy is a federal service academy that educates and graduates licensed Merchant Marine officers. In addition to the rigorous academic and physical requirements for admission, applicants must be nominated by their Congressman or Senator.

All USMMA graduates incur an obligation to serve the United States. The U.S. Flag Merchant Marine – manned exclusively by American mariners – is essential for securing the country's commerce in peacetime and delivering warfighters, weapons, and military supplies in times of conflict.

The majority of "Kings Pointers" serve for eight years as Navy reservists in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program while working aboard U.S. flag vessels; others will serve on active duty in our nation's armed forces.

By virtue of their elite training and real-world experience, graduates are ready to go on day one in service of American military strength and economic power. As part of his four-year education, Hermosillo-DeBoer spent one year training as a cadet aboard ocean going vessels.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao gave the commencement address and told the graduates they "Join a long line of



Zachary Hermosillo-DeBoer

Academy graduates who have served their country with great distinction."

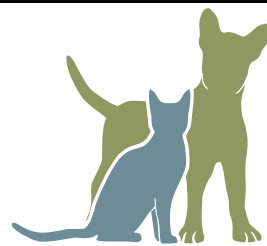
Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2020 midshipmen returned to USMMA for three weeks in June to prepare for and take their US Coast Guard license exam, four days of tests which midshipmen must pass in order to graduate. This year, the graduation ceremony was held at the War Memorial Monument where the names of the cadets and graduates who died during WWII are remembered. Superintendent RADM Jack Buono stated, "Just as the War Memorial holds 210 names, you are 210 strong... You each carry the name of one of the 210 listed on the War Memorial. By pausing ... and rendering a salute in honor of their sacrifices, you honor them and their memory."

Dedicated during WWII, USMMA has since served the nation in both peace and war. Learn more at www.WeAreTheUSMMA.com

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Congratulations are in order to Dr. Angelo Webster of White Pine Dental and wife Dr. Jesaka Webster on the arrival of their new baby boy, Makoa Tye Webster, born July 30, at St. Joe's. The little guy is their first child, weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long. In Hawaiian, Makoa means "Brave Man," said Dr. Webster in an email to me the next morning. You see I try and follow up with customers at the start-up of each month to see if they have any advertising needs and my response from him included the joyous news. It turned out he was making calls and sending out text blasts from the hospital when I chimed in. I joked that I was nearly the first to know of the breaking news and he said, "Yes, you are." The email exchange made my day. Welcome to the world, Makoa!

Hearing loss can affect more than just the person experiencing those symptoms, and the folks at Beltone say that it could lead to social isolation and depression. Right now, you can schedule a free hearing health appointment and get an \$850 Beltone gift card, good towards the purchase of two hearing instruments, or \$425 off of one instrument. They support and honor most Medicare and discount plans including Blue Cross/Blue Shield/True Hearing. The local Beltone Center at 889 Sumpter Rd., just south of town follows CDC guidelines with one-on-one appointments and curbside services. See their ad in today's paper and visit www.beltonehearingaid.com. Be sure to ask about their 0% financing and All Approved Programs. Call (734) 256-4113.

The month of August includes a handful of activities at Yankee Air Museum starting with a day of extended hours for the museum on Aug. 12 where the doors

will be open until 8 p.m. An Open House featuring the museum's air adventure fleet will take place on Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. until noon inside Hangar 1. The free event is open to the public and will feature tours of the YAM's B-17 Yankee Lady, C-47 Hairless Joe, the newly restored Huey Greyhound helicopter, and a sneak peek of the museum's newest project, a Ford Tri-motor plane. Plane rides will be available for purchase. There are also seats still available to ride the C-47 to Mackinaw Island for a three-day trip on Sept. 25-27. Visit their events page at www.yankeeairmuseum.org for pricing and itinerary.

During the month of August, Faith Assembly Church on East Huron River Drive in Belleville is holding Sunday services outdoors under a big tent with a different food truck available to follow every Sunday, with free ice cream for kids all month long. Pastor Doug Valentine conducts the service, which begins at 11 a.m. Visit their website at www.faithassemblybelleville.com and Facebook page at BellevilleFaithAssemblyChurch.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? There is no charge to be in this column. Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion.



Aug. 6 – Donna Hogue
Aug. 7 – Sue Mytych
Aug. 8 – Cathy Briggs
Aug. 23 – Lynne Mills
Aug. 31 – Lynn McArthur

Do you or someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish as soon as possible.

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."
– Will Rogers



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5-FAMILY SALE, 28101 Karr, Sumpter, South of Willow. Aug. 12-15, 9am-4pm. Household & yard items, women, men teen, & kids' items. 08/13

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“You can observe a lot just by watching.”
— Yogi Berra

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VBT Planners approve ordinance text changes that allow new project

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A change in the text of the ordinance on C - Local Business zoning was unanimously recommended to the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees by the VBT Planning Commission at its June 24 virtual Zoom meeting.

The township board unanimously approved the first reading of the ordinance

at its July 7 meeting and then approved the second reading at its July 21 and adopted the ordinance.

The ordinance is being clarified in order to distinguish commercial and non-commercial land uses, with respect to maximum building size and clarify restrictions in non-residential zoning districts.

The changes open the door for the

assisted-living project proposed at the southeast corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor roads which was not possible with the current zoning. The property is owned by Walter and Joyce Rochowiak who are very active in the township. Walter has been on the Water and Sewer Commission for 30 years.

The vote by commissioners was taken after a public hearing in which just one person spoke.

Lisa Martin of 9405 Madison, speaking as a homeowner, said this potential complex was in her backyard. Martin said the township is changing the zoning ordinance to benefit a specific project.

She said at the Jan. 28 planning commission meeting, she raised questions about the project and she located size restrictions in the ordinance, which now has led to the changes.

She said the planners had produced a map with C zoning parcels in the township identified and this Tyler-Morton Taylor site is the sole C Local Business District parcel that would benefit from adding the word "commercial" to the ordinance limitation

on size.

"Before you recommend to the board, I urge you to go to Canton," Martin said. She suggested commissioners go see Westbridge Estates of Canton to see what happens when the size limitation no longer applies. When you go to that subdivision, you can see the senior building that is going up on Ford Road and it looks huge and out of place from the subdivision side, she said.

She said she wanted to go on record that this is an effort to clear the path for the senior building proposed for that corner.

Vidya Krishnan, planning consultant from McKenna, said it is not the intent to change the ordinance for a specific project.

She said at the time the ordinance was written assisted living was not an anticipated use. She said senior living and assisted living were not in the ordinance and those designations are relatively new as far as planning goes.

Commission chairperson Carol Thompson said, "It seems to make great sense."

In other business at the two-hour meeting, the commission:

- Held a public hearing on proposed improvements at Camping World, 43646 North I-94 Service Dr., and then recommended special land use approval to the township board and approved the preliminary site plan. [The township board later approved the project.] Camping World plans partial demolition of the east wing of the existing building with improvements to the part of the building that will remain. There will be repaving and expansion of the parking lot and revisions of RV storage areas and improvements of drain and stormwater detention, site lighting, and fence upgrades. Camping World engineer Paul Tulikangas said their intention is to display new inventory with the best and brightest units in front;

- Approved another year of temporary land use for Atchinson Ford to park leased turn-in vehicles and new vehicle inventory at 8705 Belleville Rd. There have been no issues for the past two years and the property has been well-maintained. Craig Atchinson said he has been mowing it and he has gone out for bids to repair the fence surrounding it. Commissioner Medina Atchinson was recused from this agenda item at her request; and

- Heard a person ask who is in charge of taking care of the property at the Harbour Pointe golf course. Director Best said the township contacted the owners, Habitat Company. He said the grass is high and it is not being used as a golf course. Best said they are trying to find a way to use the property in another way to benefit residents. They don't have the intention of reopening it as a golf course. They are working with a landscape architect on the project, Best said.

"All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence; then success is sure."

— Mark Twain

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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Online Court Watching

Teen charged with second-degree murder seeks live exam

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The probable cause conference on the second-degree murder charge against Michaiiah Carlin Minor, 18, of Canton had been set for June 17 before 34th Court Judge Tina Brooks Green.

At the virtual court appearance via Zoom, Judge Green approved the waiving of Minor’s appearance, as requested by his attorney.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Goze said both he and defense attorney David Cripps would like a live preliminary exam scheduled.

Judge Green said they are trying not to schedule live exams at this time, but both attorneys said it was important because of the witnesses.

“I don’t know when this would be held,” said Judge Green. “We’ll put in the stack of exams waiting to be done live.”

Minor is charged in the death of John Robert McElreath, 64, on May 7, 2019. McElreath died from injuries in an auto crash at the corner of Ecorse and Belleville roads in Van Buren Township.

It is alleged that Minor, an unlicensed driver, was driving southbound on Belleville Road at a high rate of speed, when he disregarded a red light at Ecorse, crossed over the double-yellow line and drove into northbound traffic, striking the victim in his car.

There have been several competency exams and Minor has been cleared to face the charge.

Norman Ladale Johnson

The probable cause conference for the four felony charges against Norman Ladale Johnson, 31, of Willis was adjourned until June 17 by Judge Oakley during a Zoom court session on June 3.

On June 17 his probable cause conference was again adjourned, this time until July 8 so the defense attorney could get discovery from Sumpter Township police. On July 8, Murray Duncan took over as defense attorney and so he needed to get the discovery that was furnished to the first attorney and then returned to the prosecutor. The probable cause conference was again adjourned, this time until July 29.

On July 29, Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference to Aug. 12. Duncan said he still didn’t have the discovery and Prosecutor Smith said he has it all now since she sent it to him the night before.

Johnson is accused of attacking a 26-year-old Sumpter Township resident with a tire iron at the man’s home in the 23000 block of Elwell Road on May 16.

Johnson is charged with assault with intent to murder, home invasion first degree, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, and assault

with a dangerous weapon.

He was jailed after cash bond was set at \$50,000. On June 3, Judge Oakley changed the \$50,000 cash/surety bond to allow 10% and Johnson posted bond through a bail bondsman. Johnson was to have no contact with the victim and he was to wear a GPS tether for home or work only.

Jamie Kevin Gwizdak

Jamie Kevin Gwizdak, 45, of Westland was due for his probable cause conference on June 17, and that was adjourned until July 8 by Judge Oakley.

Gwizdak is charged with three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and one count of ethnic intimidation in Sumpter Township on May 1. He is free on \$2,000 personal recognizance bond and he is to have no contact with three alleged victims or their home.

Gwizdak is being defended by Timothy Wrather of the Neighborhood Defender Service, who said he still needed discovery. On July 8, Wrather had a family emergency so the probable cause conference was adjourned until July 29.

On July 29, Judge Oakley set a live preliminary exam for 10:30 a.m., Oct. 5. There will be three separate victims testifying, in masks, and each will wait out in the parking lot until called inside to testify.

Matthew Allen Storms

Matthew Allen Storms, 34, of Van Buren Township is charged with one count of domestic violence in VBT on June 6. He is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

His defense attorney Robert Burton-Harris of the Neighborhood Defender Service asked Judge Green to waive his client’s presence at the June 17 court session. Harris said he still needs discovery and VBT police may have body cam to study.

Judge Green adjourned his probable cause until June 24. On June 24, Burton-Harris learned VBT police did not have body camera recording and asked for a live preliminary exam for his client. Judge Oakley said, “We’ll be in touch,” adding that file to others for live exams.

Deborah Jeanette Tolbert

Deborah Jeanette Tolbert, 63, of Van Buren Township is charged with one count of vulnerable adult abuse – first degree and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder on June 2 in VBT.

She was before Judge Green on June 17 for her probable cause conference, which was adjourned until July 1 because Tolbert’s attorney Timothy Wrather did not yet have the discovery from VBT police.

On July 1, Wrather said he had all the discovery and demanded a live preliminary exam for his client. Judge Green said she had a cancellation and they could have the exam at 9 a.m. sharp July 9. Later, the live exam was set for 9 a.m., Aug. 18.

Judge Green said only attorney Wrather and Tolbert will be allowed in the courtroom, sitting on different sides of a shield and with masks on. One witness will be allowed in the building at a time and the

others will have to wait in their cars until called and will wear masks when entering the building. Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Erin Danne said she expects two to three witnesses.

Tolbert is free after posting bond of \$10,000/10% bond with a provision that she stay away from the alleged victim.

Daniel Allenhoward Light

Daniel Allenhoward Light, 27, of Taylor appeared before Judge Oakley via Zoom on

June 10 for his probable cause conference on one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence on May 26 in the City of Belleville. He was free after posting bond of \$10,000/10%. His conditional bond ordered no contact with the victim.

His attorney Sarah Krause said her client and the victim have a nine-month-old child in common and he hasn’t seen his child in

(continued on page 19)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION REMOTE PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **August 26, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** Pending extensions to the State of Michigan Governor’s Executive Order #2020-129, which allows for remote public meetings, this meeting will take place electronically due to health concerns associated with COVID-19. Alternatively, if the meeting is to occur in person at the on-site location of 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI, 48111, advance notice will be provided via mail. The Planning Commission will consider the following request:

Case # 19-040- A request by Beth Ernat of Clover Communities Van Buren LLC to construct a senior housing development with 125 independent senior housing units. The proposed +/- 45,860 square foot, 3-story building is located on the west side of Belleville Road between Tyler Road and Robson Road on a +/- 17.7 acre site including a +/- 15.8 acre development site and a +/- 1.9 acre out parcel. The subject property, 8470 Belleville Road (Parcel ID# 83 036 99 0002 702), is zoned C-2 – Extensive Highway Business District and also in the Belleville Road Overlay District (BROD).

Senior housing developments are a Special Land Use in the C-2 District. The proposed Special Land Use requires a public hearing. This hearing is being held in accordance with Article 12, Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance (Administrative Procedures - Special Land Use Review).

Members of the public may access the agenda materials via the Township website – www.vanburen-mi.org beginning **August 21, 2020**. On this website, members of the public will also gain access to **means of participating in the electronic meeting**, including a unique Zoom weblink and dial-in phone number with a meeting ID for meeting videoconference or teleconference access. The meeting will be available to view live on the Van Buren Township YouTube Channel which can be reached from the live meeting link located on the Van Buren Township website home page (www.vanburen-mi.org). Closed captioning will be available after YouTube fully renders meeting video.

A complete **procedure for public comment by electronic means** is provided on a guide which is accessible on the Van Buren Township website (www.vanburen-mi.org). Participants may also choose to submit written comments that will be read into record during public comment by the Chairperson. Submit any written comments via e-mail to dpower@vanburen-mi.org by **Noon, Tuesday, August 25, 2020**, which is the day before the meeting. Members of the public may also contact dpower@vanburen-mi.org to be connected with members of the Planning Commission prior to the meeting by e-mail.

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any citizen requesting accommodation to attend a meeting, and/or to obtain this notice in alternate formats, please contact the Clerk’s Office at 734.699.8900 extension 9205.

Posted: 7/31/2020
Published: 8/6/2020

Pot shops

(continued from page 3)

and Mayor Conley. After discussion it was agreed the whole charter needs to be reviewed to make it more up to date and a charter commission should be established. It will be put on the council follow-up list;

- Withdrew from the agenda the request of Brad Traskos for the Farm Bureau Tractor Ride through Belleville on Saturday, Aug. 29, because Traskos said the event has been canceled until next May. The approximately 50 tractors were to parade down South Street to Main Street to Liberty Street to East Huron River Drive and out of town;

- Approved the mayor's re-appointments of John Juriga, Steve Jones, and Randy Priest to the planning commission, with terms to expire Dec. 31, 2022;

- Approved the mayor's re-appointment of Councilman Thomas Fielder to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2022;

- Approved the mayor's re-appointment of herself to the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2023;

- Approved the mayor's reappointment

of Jacqueline Schank-Ulch to the Civil Service Commission with a term to expire May 31, 2026;

- Approved the mayor's reappointments of Bob McCraight and John Hennessey to the Construction Board of Appeals – Property Maintenance with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2021;

- Approved accounts payable of \$72,694.22 and one purchase in excess of \$500: to TNT Tree Service, \$1,700 for removing a dead city tree on Edison and High streets, from the Roads fund;

- Heard Police Chief Robinson announce his department has been invited by Dearborn Police Department to take part in Operation Safe Streets, Aug. 17-28, along with at least other seven police departments, where they will do high visibility traffic enforcement. He said places in this region have been plagued by violence and this is to make the streets safer. He said they will keep track of traffic stops, weapons, and report the results together in a press conference. Chief Robinson said it will enhance communication with other departments and enhance overall strength of this region;

- Heard Kobylarz read a thank-you letter to Belleville Police Department, signed by Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara, for participating in the recent peaceful Black Lives Matter event. Supervisor McNamara said such professional assistance from their neighbor is appreciated; and

- Heard Patricia Myles of Ypsilanti Township say she was looking to see the LaSalle statute on the agenda for discussion, but it wasn't there. She said she has an informal petition with signatures in support of removal of the statue from Victory Park. She said it is signed by residents and workers (including herself) in the 48111 area, including Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright. She said Belleville does have a racism issue and asked if the issue of the statue removal will be on a future agenda. Mayor Conley said she doesn't know when it will be on a future agenda. Myles asked where to fax her petition and was told to send it to the city manager or clerk at Bellevilleonthelake.com, the city's new address.

Belleville Fire Fighter Christopher Zweng joins Sumpter Fire Dept.

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Christopher Zweng, a Belleville fire fighter, is a new member of the Sumpter Township Fire Department.

At its July 28 meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved hiring Zweng as a paid-on-call fire fighter, contingent on him passing a physical and a drug test.

Fire Chief Joe Januszyk said since Zweng is already trained as a fire fighter, it will save the township money.

In other business at the 25-minute, in-person and masked, meeting at township hall, the board:

- Approved hiring Gerald Leblanc, Jr. as a backup building inspector;

- Approved paying \$4,500 in additional cost for landscaping at Banotai and Graham parks;

- Learned the township-wide yard sale will be held Aug. 28-30. No permits are required for the sales;

- Was informed the 2020 Fire Department Chicken Broil has been canceled;

- Heard Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke say Sumpter Township officers helped the Wayne County Violent Crime Reduction Task Force apprehend a suspect in the death of a 13-month-old twin boy and beating of his brother. The suspect was apprehended at a residence in the 23000 block of Martinsville Road;

- Heard Chief Luke say that day, July 28, is the 35th anniversary of the death of Sumpter Officer Roy Graham whose patrol unit was hit by a drunk driver;

- Heard Karitha Hanible announce the annual Sumpter Progressive Civic League backback event for students has been canceled this year. She asked if the township has an economic development group and Supervisor John Morgan replied they did have one, but it's been laying dormant for about 15 years. "I can't remember why it disbanded, but it wasn't officially disbanded." Hanible said it could increase the township's tax base. Supervisor Morgan said the township was

limited because of its infrastructure. It was agreed the sewers with grinder pumps were not suitable for businesses. Hanible said Sumpter used to have a health clinic and there is a need;

- Heard Clerk Esther Hurst say that the Dollar General store is very interested in the Willis/Sumpter road area, but the prices are too high. She said she wishes they could entice the owners to lower their prices. Hurst said they never told her how much the property owners are asking, but it's 25% more than what they were willing to pay. They are not willing to go farther south in the township. "It they put it up, people will come," she said. "I haven't given up on Dollar General"; and

- Heard Mary Ban say she is happy the eight members of her Bible group are able to meet in the community center on Tuesday mornings. She said they are praying for their community and for the nation.

Treasurer Ken Bednark and Trustee Don Swinson were absent and excused from the meeting.

Nixle alerts available from Belleville Police Department

Belleville Police Chief Dave Robinson invites the public to sign up to receive free emergency alerts and community information through his department in partnership with Nixle.

Chief Robinson said participants will receive up-to-the-minute updates from the Belleville Police Department by email and cell phone to help the them stay informed.

Sign up at www.nixle.com or text "Belleville" to 888-777. You will be prompted to enter your zip code and email for additional messages. To receive emergency messages, include your cell phone number.

Need help signing up? Send an email to support@nixle.com.

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SUNDAY

9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 297 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week, including the following.

Sunday, July 26:

0031 – noise complaint, Quirk Rd.
0042 – fireworks, North Shore Dr.
0044 – noise complaint, Parkwood
0230 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Haggerty Rd.
0256 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0306 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0350 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0450 – domestic, Colonial Rd.
0949 – animal complaint, Ecorse Rd./Hannan Rd.
1033 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
1045 – ordinance violation, Denton Rd.
1109 – larceny, Bradley Dr.
1133 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1320 – private property/property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1421 – mental subject, Harmony Ln.
1442 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Grove St.
1521 – parking complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1542 – domestic, Pine Dr.
1704 – misc. complaint, Belleville Lake
1746 – parking complaint, Vista Dr./Laguna Dr.
1802 – lake complaint, High St.
1902 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.
1914 – juvenile complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2026 – domestic, Hamilton St.
2040 – animal complaint, Bog Rd.
2156 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
2214 – shooting, Lake Villa Dr.
2235 – follow-up by officer, Brookside Dr.
2319 – noise complaint, Salem Ct./Milton Dr.
Monday, July 27:
0232 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0243 – assist other dept., Cherokee Dr.
0352 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1050 – abandoned auto, Martinsville Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1116 – mental subject, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1547 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1719 – neighbor trouble, Bog Rd.
1722 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1745 – fraud, Prairie Ct.
1758 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I94 Service
1802 – 911 welfare check, E. Walden Dr.
1848 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1949 – 911 welfare check, Jackson St.
1956 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
2019 – shooting, Hancock Ave.
2036 – family trouble, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2110 – misc. complaint, Denton Rd.
2145 – 911 welfare check, Robson Rd.
2200 – property damage accident, Borgman Ave. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2227 – animal complaint, Daisy Blvd.
2237 – noise complaint, Parkside Dr.
2351 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2359 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
Tuesday, July 28:
0028 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0838 – ordinance violation, Denton Rd.
0855 – fraud, Winchester St.
0859 – animal complaint, N. Darmoor Cir. / Lancaster Dr.
1006 – hospice death, Robbe Rd.
1030 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Jeremy
1101 – animal complaint, Robson Rd.
1136 – unattended death, Riggs Rd.
1145 – hospice death, Park Estates Dr.
1216 – assault & battery, Sumpter Rd.
1311 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
1617 – fraud, Christina Ln.
1623 – larceny, Harmony Ln.
1639 – property damage accident, Beckley Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1655 – larceny from auto, Lighthouse Dr.
1709 – threat, S. Purple Sage Ct.
1738 – juvenile complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1746 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1830 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1924 – trespassing, Alva Dr.
2043 – misc. complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2047 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2126 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.

2137 – noise complaint, Anna/Rebecca Ct.
2146 – suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr.
2234 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.

Wednesday, July 29:

0443 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
0946 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
1139 – larceny, Oak Ln.
1140 – traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd./Grove St.
1306 – trespassing, Country Walk
1436 – suspicious person/vehicle, McKinley St.
1641 – larceny, Ash Dr.
1923 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
2033 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2050 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
2122 – assist other dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.
2228 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
2257 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
2315 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hickory Woods
2325 – shooting, Kirkridge Park Dr.
Thursday, July 30:
0133 – domestic, W. Archwood Dr.
0306 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
0402 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bradley Dr.
0638 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
0834 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
0838 – malicious destruction of property, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0900 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
0904 – ordinance violation, Colonial Rd.
1052 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1126 – larceny from auto, Village Green
1312 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hanover Dr. / N. Cumberland Dr.
1405 – follow-up by officer, Williamsburg
1608 – suspicious person/vehicle, Westlake Cir.
1823 – malicious destruction, Woodwall Court
2058 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Bemis
Friday, July 31:
0101 – suicidal person, Meadows Ln.
0331 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fairfield Dr. / Lancaster Dr.
0421 – domestic, Purple Sage Ct.
0449 – felony assault, Estates
0718 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0811 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Dorchester Dr.
0941 – malicious destruction of property, Quirk
0957 – suspicious person/vehicle, Purple Sage Ct.
1151 – animal complaint, Hull Rd.
1210 – fraud, Woodbury Dr.
1313 – domestic, Parkwood
1316 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1337 – misc. complaint, Colony Ln.
1402 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1424 – traffic offense, McBride Ave./Buchanan St.
1508 – mental subject, Harmony Ln.
1613 – animal complaint, Rogers Ave.
1653 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1659 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
1906 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
2221 – private property/property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
2310 – shooting, Springwood Blvd.
2337 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
Saturday, Aug. 1:
0323 – malicious destruction of property, Daisy
0421 – property damage accident, Haggerty/E. I-94
0638 – found property/child, Denton Rd.
0959 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
1158 – hospice death, Sheldon Rd.
1215 – suspicious person/vehicle, Andover Dr. / Turnberry Ct.
1330 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1409 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Oak Ln.
1450 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1452 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Freeport Ct./Country Walk Blvd.
1457 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1547 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Savage Rd.
1723 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bemis/Haggerty
2029 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2037 – noise complaint, Stamford Rd.
2039 – threat, Country Ln.
2052 – domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
2203 – felony assault, S. I-94 Service Dr.
Also on this week's log are 93 traffic stops, 64 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 26:

0857 – neighbor trouble, Belle Villa Blvd.
1249 – property damage accident, Main St.
1304 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1336 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.
1452 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, South St.
2044 – neighbor trouble, Breakwater Dr.
Monday, July 27:
0032 – harassment call, Henry St.
0333 – noise complaint, Menlo Park Dr.
0418 – assist fire dept., Wexford Ave.
1033 – larceny, Main St.
1529 – suspicious person/vehicle, Loza Ln. / E. Huron River Dr.
2052 – neighbor trouble, Belle Villa Blvd.
2251 – traffic stop, Main St.
Tuesday, July 28:
1403 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1626 – intrusion alarm, Menlo Park Dr.
2320 – warrant arrest, Main St.
Wednesday, July 29:
0901 – civil matter, Menlo Park Dr.
1144 – lost property/child, Main St.
1150 – PPO violation, Henry St.
1342 – follow-up by officer, South St.
1442 – suspicious person/vehicle, alley Main / Second
1715 – domestic, Church St.
1718 – vehicle lockout, Owen
2153 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
Thursday, July 30:
1122 – traffic stop, W. Wabash/alleyway
1304 – fraud, Main St.
1442 – trespassing, Denton Rd.
1637 – fraud, Carmell St.
1756 – civil matter, Wexford Ave.
1817 – family trouble, Church St.
2058 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
2326 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Angola
2341 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr. / Harbour Pointe Dr.
Friday, July 31:
0109 – suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
0116 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd.
0317 – mental subject, Main St.
0816 – traffic stop, Loza Ln./E. Huron River Dr.
0858 – traffic stop, Five Points
1009 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church St.
1149 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Main St.
1228 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./S. Liberty St.
1448 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1902 – property check, Main St.
2013 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
2247 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
Saturday, Aug. 1:
1220 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1456 – traffic stop, Five Points
1457 – parking complaint, Greylock St.
1538 – misc. complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1541 – misc. complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1702 – traffic stop, Mission Pointe/W. Huron River
1749 – misc. complaint, Main St.
There were 13 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 26:

1129 – property damage accident, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1223 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1254 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1529 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
1958 – traffic complaint, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Monday, July 27:
0745 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0910 – suspicious circumstances, Redwood St.
0924 – suspicious person, Karr Rd./Wear Rd.
1011 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1127 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1310 – suspicious vehicle, Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.
1406 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Victoria Ave.
1728 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1742 – fire dept. assist, Virginia St.

1758 – civil matter, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1946 – assault, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2106 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
2202 – assault, Wayside Dr.

Tuesday, July 28:

0557 – suspicious circumstances, Rawsonville Rd. / Bemis Rd.
0722 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
0819 – traffic complaint, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1120 – follow-up investigation, Rustic Ln.
1353 – suspicious vehicle, Willis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
1814 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1858 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1942 – suspicious circumstances, Utah St.
2031 – traffic complaint, Willis Rd./Wilmot Rd.
2100 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Elwell
2114 – welfare check, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
2125 – suspicious circumstances, 48000 bl. Sully
Wednesday, July 29:
1315 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1322 – suspicious vehicle, 51000 bl. Judd Rd.
1351 – 911 hang up, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1357 – property damage accident, 48000 bl. Willis
1444 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.
1525 – neighborhood trouble, Rustic Ln.
1645 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Victoria Ave.
1949 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
2332 – citizen assist, Rawsonville Rd./Rustic Ln.
Thursday, July 30:
0158 – ORV complaint, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
0946 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1358 – citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
1412 – citizen assist, Third St.
1538 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Griffin Ct.
1907 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.
1959 – suspicious circumstances, Lohr Rd. / Davenport Dr.
2007 – shots fired, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
2049 – property damage accident, 51000 bl. Willis
Friday, July 31:
0027 – noise complaint, Sherwood Rd./Wear Rd.
0353 – follow-up investigation, Creekside Dr. / Rustic Ln.
1037 – citizen assist, Oakville Waltz/Martinsville
1121 – welfare check, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.
1215 – abandoned vehicle, Sumpter Rd./Harris Rd.
1231 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1535 – alarm, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1702 – welfare check, 9400 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1709 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1932 – larceny, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
2006 – reckless driver complaint, Sumpter/Judd
2155 – reckless driver complaint, Wayside Dr.
2216 – suspicious person, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.
Saturday, Aug. 1:
0116 – suspicious circumstances, Carriage Ln. / Country Club Blvd.
0622 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1040 – civil matter, First St.
1216 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1219 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
1300 – civil matter, First St.
1320 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1355 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1745 – welfare check, Bemis Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1755 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
2010 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2137 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
2250 – fire dept. assist, Hawaii St.
Also, on this week's log are 45 patrol checks, 13 traffic stops, and five misc. details.

COVID-19 positive cases in 48111 rise to 541

After a COVID-19 death rate in the 48111 zip code of 30 since June 22, on July 25 one more death was recorded. The coronavirus deaths in the tri-community of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter have remained at 31 since then. The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 were 541 on Tuesday, Aug. 4, up from 515 the previous Tuesday, July 28. On Tuesday, Aug. 4, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 312 positive cases, 16 deaths; City of Belleville, 165 positive cases, 14 deaths; and Sumpter Township 64 positive cases, 1 death.

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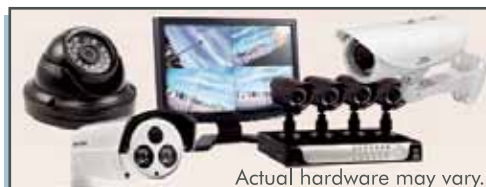
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Court Watching

(continued from page 16)

two weeks. He would like to have his aunt act as a third party so he can see his child.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Larry King said he had no problem with that, but the defendant should not use the visitation as an excuse to talk about anything else. Judge Oakley modified the bond and approved the third party only for visitation.

Attorney Krause said she has the paper discovery but she still needs the recorded 911 call, photos, and body cam or videos. Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference for two weeks until June 24. Prosecutor King said he would work on getting the discovery for Krause.

On June 24, Prosecutor King said Belleville does not have in-car or body video, but the complainant has a four-second video clip. Krause asked for an in-person exam and Judge Oakley said, "We'll put you on the list."

Todd Andrew Blake

Todd Andrew Blake, 55, of Ypsilanti was due for his probable cause conference on June 3 before Judge Oakley, but his appointed attorney, Earl Washington from the Neighborhood Defenders Service, had yet to make contact with the defendant. Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference to June 10.

On June 10 Blake was present by Zoom and Washington said he didn't have the dash cam or body cam video from Sumpter Township. Since Washington didn't agree to sign a protective order, Prosecutor King, said it would take a little longer so the prosecution could review and redact the video.

Judge Oakley set another probable cause conference for 9 a.m., June 24. Prosecutor King said after Washington has a chance to review the video, it may affect his request to hold a preliminary exam by Zoom. On June 24 the probable cause conference was adjourned to July 1.

On July 1, Washington demanded a preliminary exam for his client, which was held by Zoom on July 29. Blake was bound over to circuit court at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice for an arraignment on the information on Aug. 12.

Blake is charged with fleeing police in a vehicle and driving while license suspended-2nd in Sumpter Township on Nov. 6, 2018. He was due to be released from the Michigan Department of Corrections on another charge on Aug. 2, 2019 but he failed to appear at 34th District Court on Aug. 14, 2019, as ordered, so a bench warrant was issued. There was adjoining state pickup and he was brought back to face charges.

Terrance Travail Finch

Terrance Travail Finch, 30, of Van Buren Township, was due for his probable cause conference on June 10 before Judge Oakley, but his Neighborhood Defense Service attorney Nancy Richards said she didn't have the body cam videos yet from Van Buren Township PD.

Judge Oakley adjourned the probable

cause conference for a week, until June 17 at 9:40 a.m. and continued personal bond of \$5,000 with the condition he stay away from the alleged victim.

Attorney Richards said her client wants a live preliminary exam. Judge Oakley said they are trying to catch up on all the exams and the prosecutor will write a motion on the live exam request and he, as judge, will rule on it.

Finch is charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence on May 27 in Van Buren Township.

On June 17, Judge Green adjourned the probable cause conference one more week, until June 24, because the discovery still had to be obtained from VBT. On June 24 Judge Oakley put the case on the list for a live preliminary exam. Then, on July 1, the defense attorney still needed discovery and the attorney was having trouble making contact with the defendant. The case will be reviewed July 31.

Rebecca Nicole Rose

Rebecca Nicole Rose, 36, of Van Buren Township, was bound over for trial in circuit court after waiving her preliminary exam on June 24 before Judge Oakley. Her arraignment on the information was July 8 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. A calendar conference has been set for Aug. 14.

She is charged with assault to do great bodily harm less than murder, assault on a police officer, and domestic violence in VBT on April 25. She is free on personal recognizance bond of \$10,000.

Dominick Robert Anderson

Dominick Robert Anderson, 23, of Sumpter Township, had his probable cause conference adjourned until July 15 so his defense attorney Murray Duncan could get some other digital discovery, including Judge Oakley's ordered release of a tape of the witnesses' recorded interviews.

His live preliminary exam was scheduled for 9 a.m., July 30, at 34th District Court. There is one witness.

On July 29, Judge Green was advised the 15-year-old victim, who lives in Ohio, had undergone treatment in an emergency room and now is in a crisis center. Also, the mother advised there is no vehicle to drive from Ohio, three hours away.

"She's in a crisis center ... and her undisclosed medical issue is a concern to me," said Judge Green, who agreed to a short adjournment. She set the live preliminary exam for 10:30 a.m., Aug. 10.

Anderson is charged with five felony counts of criminal sexual conduct – third degree (person 13-15) on Nov. 26 in Sumpter Township. He is free after posting bond of \$10,000/10% and bond was continued.

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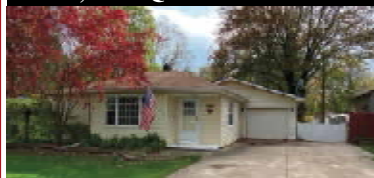
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